

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 18890 050426Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 SS-15 HA-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 AID-05 /084 W
-----018233 050438Z /23
R 050149Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7128
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 18890

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, CB
SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAM-
PUCHEA

REF: (A) STATE 157953 (B) BANGKOK 17849 (C) BANGKOK 18288

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS INTERVIEW OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEE
SOURCE S, NAME: SI SUOT. (NAME MAY BE USED IN USG
DOCUMENTATION FOR UNHRC.) INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED IN PRASAT,
SURIN, JUNE 16, 1978.

2. SI SUOT, 22, CAME FROM KOUKMON, ODDAR MEANCHEY PROVINCE.
PRIOR TO THE KHMER ROUGE TAKEOVER, HE HAD BEEN A STUDENT FOR
TEN YEARS. HE ARRIVED IN THAILAND WITH HIS WIFE IN
FEBRUARY, 1978. HIS ACCOUNT FOLLOWS:

3. CONDITIONS OF LIVING IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA QTE
I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE MOBILE YOUTH GROUP AFTER THE KHMER
ROUGE TOOK OVER. IN MID-1976, I GOT MARRIED, AND WE MOVED TO
THE COLLECTIVE KOUKMON. I FLED TO THAILAND AFTER MY WIFE
HAD A MISCARRIAGE. MANY WOMEN HAVE MISCARRIAGES, ESPECIALLY SINCE
WOMEN HAVE TO WORK UNTIL THEIR NINTH MONTH OF PREGNANCY.
VERY FEW BABIES ARE BORN, PARTLY BECUASE THE HUSBANDS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 18890 050426Z

AND WIVES ARE FREQUENTLY SPEARTED AND ASSIGNED TO DIFFERENT
MOBILE WORK UNITS.

4. QTE MOST PEOPLE ARE SICK FROM MALARIA OR DYSENTERY.
THE KHMER ROUGE HAVE MADE A DISTILLED MEDICINE SYRUP
FROM TREE BARK. IT IS INJECTED INTO THOSE WHO ARE
VERY SICK. IT IS TOTALLY INEFFECTIVE, AND MOST PEOPLE WHO

ARE INJECTED DIE. IF YOU REFUSE THE INJECTION, THEY SAY, "YOU FAKE DISEASE" AND YOU RISK DEATH AS PUNISHMENT. THE DOCTOR IN THE CLINIC IS SOME KIND OF "REVOLUTIONARY DOCTOR."

5. QTE COMMUNICATION IN THE VILLAGE IS VERY STRICT. YOU CANNOT CALL ON YOUR NEIGHBORS AT ANY TIME, EVEN DURING THE REST PERIODS. I COULD NOT EVEN VISIT MY PARENTS, WHO LIVED ONLY 200 METERS AWAY. IF YOU VISIT ANYONE, EVEN YOUR PARENTS, YOU ARE ACCUSED OF PLOTTING. OCCASIONALLY, WE MET IN THE FIELDS. BUT EVEN IN THE FIELDS YOU ARE AFRAID TO TALK MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS EVEN WITH YOUR FATHER. THE ATMOSPHERE IS VERY BAD. THE PEOPLE ARE VERY DISTRESSED.

6. SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION AND PUNISHMENT QTE THE PEOPLE IN THE COLLECTIVE ARE DIVIDED INTO PRODUCTION GROUPS OF 12 TO 18 PERSONS EACH. EACH GROUP HAS A LEADER APPOINTED FROM THE GROUP, FREQUENTLY AN "OLD CAMBODIAN" (FROM THE PRE-APRIL 1975 KHMER ROUGE-CONTROLLED AREAS). THE VILLAGE CHIEF IS IN CHARGE OF THE GROUP LEADERS. OCCASIONALLY, PEOPLE ARE MOVED FROM ONE GROUP TO ANOTHER. FOR EXAMPLE, FREQUENTLY, THERE ARE TOO MANY WIDOWS IN A SINGLE GROUP, AND SOME MEN ARE MOVED TO BALANCE THE GROUPS.

7. QTE SOMETIMES AFTER LUNCH MEETINGS ARE CALLED TO TALK ABOUT WORK, ONLY THE VILLAGE CHIEF TALKS. NO ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 18890 050426Z

ELSE DARES SPEAK, ALTHOUGH OCCASIONALLY, SOME OF THE FARMERS ASK QUESTIONS RELATED TO WORK. YOU CANNOT SUGGEST ANYTHING OR CRITICIZE ANYTHING. YOU MUST AGREE WITH EVERYTHING SAID AND SAY, "YOU ARE RIGHT, MIT (COMRADE)" WHEN THE LEADER SPEAKS. IN THE MEETINGS, THE VILLAGE CHIEF WILL TELL YOU NOT TO COMPLAIN BECAUSE, WORK WILL BE DELAYED." YOU WILL BE ACCUSED OF OPPOSING PRODUCTION.

8.. QTE IF YOU TALK TO ANYONE ELSE, YOU ARE ACCUSED OF PLOTTING AND YOUR ACTIONS ARE MONITORED. IF THEY THINK YOU ARE ACTUALLY PLANNING TO RUN AWAY, YOU ARE EXECUTED.

9. QTE IF YOU COMPLAIN TWO OR THREE TIMES ABOUT WORKING OR LIVING CONDITIONS, YOU ARE EXECUTED. BUT THERE WERE NO SUCH CASES IN MY VILLAGE, BECAUSE NO ONE DARED TO COMPLAIN.

10. EXECUTIONS QTE MY OLDER BROTHER, SI SAY, WAS A FORMER SOLDIER. HE AND HIS FAMILY WERE "RELOCATED" OUT OF SIEM REAP. WE NEVER HEARD OF THEM AGAIN AND BELIEVE THEY WERE EXECUTED. MY UNCLE SAMBO, 40, WAS ALSO A FARMER AT KOUKMON. IN LATE 1977, HE WAS "TAKEN AWAY." SHORTLY AFTERWARD, HIS WIFE WAS TOLD TO "FOLLOW

YOUR HUSBAND." WE NEVER HEARD OF EITHER OF THEM AGAIN.

11. QTE IN LATE 1977, I SAW THREE PEOPLE KILLED. THEY WERE BROUGHT FROM ANOTHER VILLAGE AND EXECUTED IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY IN MY VILLAGE. NO ONE KNEW WHY. THEY WERE FORCED TO SQUAR DOWN,BOW THE HEADS, AND THEN THEY WERE HIT WITH STICKS. AFTERWARD, THE CORPSES WERE PUT UNDER A MANGO TREE, COVERED WITH A PEICE OF CLOTH. LATE IN THE EVENING, THEY WERE BURIED, LIKE DOGS, NEAR A FENCE, AS FERTILIZER FOR A FOW OF COCONUT TREES.

12. QTE NOW, IF YOU ARE RELATED TO A FORMER SOLDIER OR FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL , YOU ARE KILLED. IN 1978, THEY STARTED KILLING FORMER STUDENTS, THOSE WHO HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 BANGKO 18890 050426Z

STUDIED OVER SIX YEARS, SO I FLED TO THAILAND.

13. HUMAM, CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS QTE THERE ARE A FEW HUMAN RIGHTS IN MY VILLAGE. WHEN YOU NEED SOMETHING, YOU CAN ASK THE GROUP LEADER FOR IT, SUCH AS FOR A NEW SET OF CLOTHES OR TOOLS FOR WORK. YOU COULD NOT ASK TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF WORK, NOR COULD YOU ASK FOR MOREFOOD.

14. QTE I CANNOT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT POLITICAL RIGHTS SINCE I AM TOO LOW DOWN.
O'DONOHUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO18890
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DECONTROLLED PER 7/7/78 MEMO FROM EAVLC - JUDITH R. JOHNSON
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780275-0507
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780797/aaaaddhp.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 61b67c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 157953, 78 BANGKOK 17849, 78 BANGKOK 18288
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2120493
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/61b67c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014